GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:183
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
FDI in Media
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit permitted and also inflow reported for electronic and print media industry, segment-wise

(b) Whether the Government has raised/proposes to raise FDI ceiling in the Direct to Home (DTH) and cable networks, if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether discussions were held with various stakeholders including trade, industry and viewers before finalizing the said policy, if so, the details thereof and the response of various stakeholders thereon;

(d) whether the Government has stipulated different norms and FDI limit for different segments like news,FM services, entertainment, broadcast carriage services etc; and

e) If so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.183 FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2015.

(a) As per Press Note No. 12 (2015 series) dated 24.11.2015 issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), permitted limit of FDI in electronic and print media is as below:
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Sector/Activity Foreign Investment Limit Entry route
6.2.7.1.1
1) Teleports(setting up of up-linking HUBs/Teleports);
2) Direct to Home(DTH);
3) Cable Networks(Multi System Operators (MSOs) operating at
National or State or District level and undertaking up gradation of networks towards digitalization and addressability);
4) Mobile TV;
5)Headend-in-the Sky Broadcasting Service(HITS)
100% Automatic up to 49% Government route beyond 49%
6.2.7.1.2
Cable Networks (Other MSOs not undertaking up gradation of networks towards digitalization and addressability and Local Cable Operators (LCOs))
100% Automatic up to 49%
Government route beyond 49%

6.2.7.2.1
Terrestrial Broadcasting FM(FM Radio), subject to such terms and conditions as specified from time to time, by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, for grant of permission for setting up of FM Radio stations
49% Government
6.2.7.2.2

Up-linking of 'News & Current Affairs' TV Channels 49% Government
6.2.7.2.3
Up-linking of 'Non-News & Current Affairs' TV Channels, Down-linking of TV Channels
100% Automatic
6.2.8.1
Publishing of newspaper and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs 26% (FDI and investment by NRIs/PIOs/FII/FPI) Government
6.2.8.2
Publication of Indian editions of foreign magazines dealing with news and current affairs 26% (FDI and investment by NRIs/PIOs/FII/FPI) Government
6.2.8.3
Publishing/printing of scientific and technical magazines/specialty journals/ periodicals, subject to compliance with the legal framework as applicable and guidelines issued in this regard from time to time by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. 100% Government
6.2.8.4
Publication of facsimile edition of foreign newspapers 100% Government

Inflow reported for electronic and print media industry segment-wise is at Annexure.

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b) As per DIPP's Press Note, FDI ceiling in DTH and cable networks has been raised from 74% to 100% of which 49% is through automatic route and beyond that through Government route.
c) DIPP has informed that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has held extensive consultations with stakeholders on the matters as per its mandate/ practice. As per recommendations of TRAI on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Broadcasting sector in India dated 22.8.2013, TRAI had prepared and uploaded consultation papers on "FDI Limits in Broadcasting Sector in India". TRAI received responses from various stakeholders including the industry associations, DTH operators, FM radio operators, Teleport operators, Broadcasters etc. The same are available on their website www.trai.gov.in.

(d) & (e): Details of norms and FDI limit for different segments are at (a) above. As regards reasons, DIPP has informed that the caps in different activities of this Sector are raised broadly in the light of the recommendations of TRAI on FDI in Broadcasting Sector in India dated 22.8.2013, with a view to liberalise and simplify the FDI policy, so as to provide ease of doing business in the country leading to larger FDI inflows. Further, looking into the nature of activities of Up-linking of 'Non-News & Current Affairs' TV Channels, Down-linking of TV Channels, these have been placed under the automatic route.